GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:30
ANSWERED ON:18.07.2016
Investigation of Tourists
Maadam Smt. Poonamben Hematbhai

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to investigate tourists for their criminal history including sexual offences before issuing visa/visa on arrival to them;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
(c) whether the Government has any data on the number of Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism (SECT) in India; and
(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the time by which the said data is likely to be created and maintained by the Government?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) and (b): The Government of India has launched e-Tourist Visa facility on 27.11.2014 with a view to facilitate foreign tourists visiting India while strengthening security. The scheme has since been extended to 150 countries.

The e-Tourist Visa applications received online are verified with usual checks by security agencies before issuing e-TV.

In order to strengthen the Immigration system and monitor the entry and exit of foreigners, a modernization programme viz. Mission Mode Project on Immigration, Visa, Foreigners'' Registration and Tracking (IVFRT) has been implemented by the Government in the year 2010. This project aims to develop a secure service delivery frame work to enhance security and facilitation by integrating the visa issuance process, Immigration functions and the Foreigners'' Registration process. The project seeks to provide unified access to the Immigration and Law enforcement authorities about the visa application data, immigration data, registration data and other relevant information about stay and travel of the foreigners in India, for effective tracking of the foreigners.

(c) and (d): Public order and Police are State subjects. As such, crime including Sexual Exploitation of Children, against tourist is the primary responsibility of the State Government/Union Territory. Details in this regard are not maintained centrally.

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